

## Speak up & be heard

CONSUMER REGISTER lists summaries of major consumer proposals before Federal agencies. If you wish to submit written comments, include your name & address, state the name & *Federal Register* citation of the proposal on which you are commenting and explain your views briefly & clearly.

## DES

Food & Drug Administration has ordered that as of Jan. 1, 1973, all use of animal feeds containing diethylstilbestrol (DES) shall stop. FDA has already halted manufacture of animal feeds containing DES.

DES, a hormone commonly used to stimulate rapid growth of cattle, sheep & poultry, has been implicated in tests on laboratory animals as a cause of cancer.

Continued use of DES for implants in animals' ears was not affected by FDA's action. Such implants are still under review & will be allowed to continue if they do not produce detectable residues of DES in meat.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 4, page 15747; Dec. 9, page 26307; CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 1.

## Odometers

Jan. 11 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's proposal that would inform new & used cars buyers of the exact number of miles the car has been driven.

The proposal would require that any person who sells a car must give the buyer a written statement of the mileage registered by the odometer.

The statement must be in ink on the certificate of title (a form used in most states) or other document transferring ownership. If a seller provides inaccurate mileage information, he may be liable for damages in a suit brought by the buyer.

Transportation's proposal is derived from the Motor Vehicle Information & Cost Savings Act [CONSUMER NEWS SPECIAL REPORT: Nov. 15], which makes it unlawful to tamper with an odometer to conceal a car's actual mileage.

NHTSA proposes that the requirement become effective 6 months after the approved regulation is published in *Federal Register*.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 2, page 25727. Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St. SW, Washington, DC 20590.

## Cheese standards

Agriculture Dept. has established standards for Monterey (or Monterey Jack) & Colby cheeses for the first time.

After Jan. 14 each of these cheeses will be given one of 3 grades—AA, A or B—depending on flavor, body & texture, color, finish & appearance.

Monterey cheese is made by the Monterey process or

some similar process. It is white to light cream in color & mild to mellow in flavor. It is softer & contains more moisture than Colby, but its texture is similar to Colby. Monterey contains evenly dispersed holes. It has not more than 44% moisture. Salt is added.

Colby cheese is made by the Colby process or some similar process & is uncolored to orange. It has a mild to mellow flavor that is similar to Cheddar, but it has a more open texture than Cheddar. Salt is added. Colby has less than 40% moisture.

Both cheeses are made from cow's milk.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 7, pages 25989 & 25992.

## Carpets

Jan. 15 is deadline for comments on Housing & Urban Development Dept.'s proposal to revise its standards for carpets & to adopt a carpet certification program.

The new standards would be used to certify carpets put in houses built under HUD mortgage insurance programs (for example, Federal Housing Administration mortgage insurance) & low-rent public housing programs.

Carpet manufacturers who wish to participate in the certification program would have to have their carpets tested by an independent laboratory approved by HUD. Carpets meeting HUD standards could then have a stamp of approval.

Copies of the proposed revised carpet standards & the certification program are available at all HUD regional, area & insuring offices.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 12, page 26457. Send 3 copies of comments to Rules Docket Clerk, Housing & Urban Development Dept., 451 Seventh St. SW, Washington, DC 20410; mark comments with the following title & number: Carpet Standards & Carpet Certification Program; Docket N-72-129.

## Mobile homes

Jan. 16 is deadline for comments on Housing & Urban Development Dept.'s proposal pertaining to Federally insured mobile home loans that would allow a consumer to trade in his mobile home as a downpayment on a new one when the old home's trade-in value is at least equal to the minimum downpayment.

At present, all downpayments must be in cash & at least 5% of the first \$6,000 of the total cost of the mobile home plus 10% of the excess over \$6,000.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 14, page 26620. Send 3 copies of comments to Rules Docket Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Housing & Urban Development Dept., 451 Seventh St. S.W., Washington, DC 20410.

## Nonfat dry milk

Jan. 28 is deadline for comments on an Agriculture Dept. proposal to upgrade bacteriological standards for nonfat dry milk.

Permissible bacterial count level would be reduced from 150 million to 100 million for a gram of nonfat dry milk, Agriculture said. In 1969 Agriculture lowered the permissible bacterial count from 200 million a gram to 150 million.

Agriculture believes that the new standard will improve nonfat dry milk quality.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 29, page 25238. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept. Washington, DC 20250.

## Lead paint

Feb. 3 is deadline for comments on a petition to Food & Drug Administration from National Paint & Coatings Association to exempt certain lead-containing paints from a ban on paints that went into effect Dec. 31, 1972.

FDA ordered the ban for paints containing more than 1/2 % lead that are used in & around the home.

The association wants the following kinds of lead-containing paints to be clearly exempted from FDA's ban:

- Automobile, agricultural & industrial equipment refinishes;
- Industrial maintenance coatings, including traffic & safety markings;
- Touch-up coatings for autos, boats, lawn & garden equipment & appliances;
- Exterior marine coatings & exterior rubber-based roof coatings;
- Exterior primer coatings for wood sidings of redwood & cedar;
- Graphic art coatings.

FDA ordered the ban on all kinds of paint out of a conviction that banning was necessary to eliminate unnecessary risk of children eating chips of lead paint. The association, however, contends that the above listed paints are little threat to children in or around the home.

In its petition, the association said it was not aware of any data showing that children had eaten dried paint chips from the types of surfaces described in its petition.

Details—*Federal Register*: March 11, page 5229; Dec. 5, page 25849; *CONSUMER REGISTER*: April 15. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Hazardous toys

Feb. 6 is deadline for comments on Food & Drug Administration's proposal to establish methods to test toys.

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Federal law already bans from the marketplace toys that present an unreasonable risk of injury or illness through normal use or foreseeable abuse. To date, however, there has been no precise determination of what should be considered "normal use or foreseeable damage or abuse." Consequently, manufacturers & retailers have not always been able to determine whether a particular toy was dangerous.

The proposed test methods would provide an aid for determining what constitutes normal use & foreseeable damage or abuse & would, therefore, provide the basis for distinguishing between safe & unsafe toys. The tests would be divided into 3 groups keyed to ages of children for whom the toy is intended—(1) for children 18 months or younger; (2) for children over 18 months but not over 3 years; (3) for children over 3 years but not over 8 years old. The tests would be designed to show how well toys withstand such use & normal abuse as biting, dropping, twisting & bending by children in each age group.

Details—*Federal Register*: Dec. 8, page 26122. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

## Deodorants

Food & Drug Administration plans to revoke the use of the combination of neomycin sulfate & aluminum chlorohydroxide in making lotion & cream deodorants.

FDA's action is based on studies of 6 brand-name deodorants by National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council Drug Efficacy Study Group. FDA concluded that although the combination of the 2 chemicals might be effective in antiperspirants or deodorants, the inclusion of neomycin sulfate (an antibiotic) is not justified in view of the likelihood that the deodorant user might become sensitive to neomycin sulfate or his normal skin bacteria might develop a resistance to the antibiotic properties of neomycin.

FDA's ban on neomycin sulfate-aluminum chlorohydroxide applies to deodorants made on or after Jan. 14.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 8, page 13481; Dec. 5, page 25820.

## Housing standards

Housing & Urban Development Dept. has prepared new minimum standards for housing built with Federal Housing Administration insured loans & for all other HUD programs.

The standards—known as minimum property standards—are expected to be published in early spring. They will consist of 3 volumes:

- One & 2-family dwellings,
- Multifamily housing,
- Care-type housing.

More information is available at each of the 78 HUD regional field offices.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 29, page 25251.

